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BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD.

Annual Report

for the year 1947.

by

Alan A. Gilmour, M.D. ChB. D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Southwold.

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1947.

The nature of all such reports must needs be of a highly statistical nature, irksome to compile, and doubtless for many, more irksome to read and to comprehend. Comparison is sometimes made between such reports and a railway time table, be that as it may, such statistics have a very definite value, allowing of comparison with previous years.

From such comparison, sometimes pleasant, sometimes not, we as a department whose aim it is to aid the health and welfare of our immediate community, and thereby the community at large, should be in a position to review our progress, - retrogressive, static, or one of continued advancement?

From the contents of the present report it is felt that the last state can in some measure be justifiably claimed for the year 1947.

I must acknowledge my indebtedness to the Town Clerk, the Sanitary Inspector and all other Borough Officials for their unfailing assistance during the course of the year which has passed.

General Statistics:-

Area in acres	-	624
Registrar General's Estimate of the population (Mid 1947)	-	2397
No. of inhabited houses	-	1108
Rateable Value	-	£24717.

Vital Statistics:-

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate Live Births	20	24	44
Illegitimate Live Births	-	-	-
Total Live Births	20	24	44

Birth Rate:-

per 1,000 resident population.

= 18.35
(England and Wales 20.5)

Stillbirths:-

One stillbirth was notified.
Rate per 1,000 population = 0.41.
(England and Wales 0.50)

Maternal Mortality:- Nil.

Infantile Mortality:-

Deaths of infants under one year of age.

Total	M.	F.
1	1	-

This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 22.7 per 1,000 live births.

Deaths:-	Total	M.	F.
	47	22	25

Death Rate:-

per 1,000 estimated population = 15.4
(England and Wales 12.0)

Causes of Death:-	M.	F.
Heart Disease	11	9
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	4	2
Other diseases of Circulatory System.	1	2
Diseases of digestive system	-	3
Pneumonia	1	2
Cancer	-	2
Nephritis	1	-
Birth Injuries	1	-
Venereal Disease	1	-
Violent causes	-	1
All other causes	2	4
	22	25

Comparative Table for last four years:-

	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	E & W. 1947	London 1947
Population	1511	1756	2209	2397	-	-
Births	35	31	36	44	-	-
Birth Rate per 1,000	23.16	17.6	16.3	18.35	20.5	22.7
Deaths	32	41	33	47	-	-
Death Rate per 1,000	21.2	23.34	14.94	15.4	12.0	12.8
Infant Deaths 1	1	2	1	-	-	-
Infantile Mortality Rate.	28.57	32.26	55.5	22.7	41	37
Tuberculosis Death (all forms) Rate.	0.66	0.57	0.00	0.00	-	-

Comment on Statistics for the year 1947:-

(1) As far as can be ascertained the population continues to increase, being approximately 188 more than in the previous year.

(ii) The birth rate has risen, in keeping with the general post-war increase prevailing throughout the county.

(iii) The death rate is slightly higher than in the previous year. This comparatively high death rate being due to the mortality among elderly people. Of the total 47 deaths registered, 27 being over 70 years of age at the time of death.

(iv) The Infantile Mortality Rate shows a pleasing fall from the high figure returned in the last report.

(v) The Tuberculosis death rate (all forms) remains at zero.

Infectious Diseases:-

Measles was prevalent within the Borough during the second and third quarters of the year.

Of the three notified cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis, the diagnosis was confirmed in only two instances.

No single case of diphtheria was notified during the course of the year.

During the year the following cases of infectious disease were notified:-

Disease.	No.	Admitted to Hospital	Died.
Measles	89	-	-
Pneumonia	8	-	3
Whooping Cough	5	-	-
Peurperal Pyrexia	3	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Anterior Poliomyelitis	2	2	-
Catarrhal Jaundice	2	-	-
Total.	111	2	3

Isolation Hospital Accommodation:-

Such cases as require isolation treatment are cared for at Lowestoft Isolation Hospital. Cases of infectious disease are removed to hospital by the Lowestoft Isolation Hospital Ambulance.

Venereal Diseases.

The treatment of these diseases is carried out at the V.D. Clinic, Lowestoft and North Suffolk Hospital.

Ambulance Facilities:-

The Southwold Ambulance Section of the British Red Cross Society provides a motor ambulance, available for all services required. This service continues to prove adequate and satisfactory.

Diphtheria Immunisation:-

Immunisation against diphtheria was proceeded with at various sessions held within the school at Southwold.

The following figures are supplied by the East Suffolk Public Health Department with regard to the number of children immunised in Southwold.

	1947.	1946.
Pre-school population (0-5)	190	160
School population (5-15)	250	245
Percentage pre-school children immunised	31.5%	25%
Percentage all children immunised	51.8%	44.9%

During the year 19 "booster" or reinforcing doses were given to school children in Southwold.

With regard to the pre-school figures, it must be remembered that this percentage is based on the total number of pre-school children (0-5) residing within the Borough, and that children do not become eligible for immunisation until after they have attained the age of nine months. If this fact is taken into consideration it will be obvious that the pre-school children immunised in proportion to the number of children eligible for immunisation is considerably higher than the figure given, but still open to improvement.

The facilities for immunisation are provided and only apathy on the part of the parents prevents a much higher percentage of immunised children within the Borough.

Diphtheria Antitoxin.

Diphtheria Antitoxin which is provided for general practitioners for therapeutic and prophylactic purposes is stored at the Town Hall and is always available.

Tuberculosis:-

At the beginning of the year the following cases were on the Tuberculosis Register.

	Male.	Female.		Total.
Pulmonary	7	2		9
Non-pulmonary	1	5		6
	8	7	Total	15

During the year the following cases were added to the register by notification.

	Pulmonary.	Non-pulmonary.
Male	3	1
Female	1	2
	4	3
		Total 7

During the same period the following cases were removed from the register.

	Pulmonary.	Non-pulmonary.
Male	1	-
Female	-	1
	1	1
		Total 2

This leaves the following cases on the register at the end of the year 1947.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Pulmonary	9	3	12
Non-pulmonary	2	6	8
	11	9	20

This represents an increase of five cases over the figure for the previous year.

Eight cases received hospital or sanitorium treatment during the course of the year.

As was stated in last year's report, the hospital and sanatorium accommodation still remains inadequate. Waiting lists are lengthy, and the prolonged delay at home while awaiting admission proves arduous and provoking for both patient and medical attendant.

This scarcity of available beds continues, in the major part, to be due to lack of the requisite nursing and domestic staff.

It is to be hoped that the forthcoming National Health Service Scheme may find a satisfactory solution for this pressing problem.

Infant Welfare Clinic.

At present the Borough possesses no Infant Welfare Clinic.

Southwold Harbour.

The Port of Southwold has been closed to shipping since 1939.

Public Health Officers:-

Medical Officer of Health:-
Alan A. Gilmour,
M.D. ChB. D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:-
Mr. W.J.Goldfinch.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant.

Alan Gilmour.

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BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Sanitary conditions in Southwold for the year 1947.

Housing.

During the year considerable progress has been made with the erection of Council houses at Reydon. Ten houses were completed and occupied during the year; 30 more are in various stages of construction and completion is being effected at the rate of approximately one house per week.

The erection of two flats and six houses for Aged persons at Bartholomew Green is proceeding somewhat slowly.

One house has been erected by private enterprise during the year; the repair and reconstruction of war damaged houses has been the principal occupation of local builders.

Generally housing property in the Borough has been maintained in a sanitary condition, appropriate action having been taken in cases of sanitary and structural defects which have been found.

Water Supply.

Water is provided from the mains of the Southwold Water Company. There is a plentiful supply at all times and the quality is high.

Sewerage.

The sewerage system has been maintained in good condition and minor improvements at the Disposal works are in progress with a view to improving the effluent.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

House Refuse is collected by the Contractor whose work has been entirely satisfactory throughout the year. The Refuse is destroyed by incineration at the Destructor works and no cause for complaint has arisen.

Rats and Mice Disinfestation.

A Rodent Operator has been trained and has carried out useful work in the disinfestation of houses and business premises. A complete treatment of the Sewerage system was carried out with satisfactory results.

Meat and Food Inspection.

No slaughtering is done in the Borough. All homekilled meat is supplied from the Area Abbattoir at Beccles where slaughtering and dressing is under supervision of the meat Inspector.

Voluntary surrender of unfit food has been done, the principal items being canned meat due to damaged and blown tins.

Bakeries have been kept in a clean condition.

Necessary action under the new Ice Cream regulations has been taken where required.

Factories and Workshops.

All sanitary requirements under the Factory and Workshops Acts have been fully complied with by the proprietors.

General.

The Borough has been maintained in a clean and sanitary condition throughout the year.

W. J. Goldfinch.
Sanitary Inspector.